

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158506
ORIGIN DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CAB-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
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DRAFTED BY DOT/P-42:MSALLEN
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON
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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 158506

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, OTRA, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT: CIVIL AVIATION:
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION (05.0404)

REF: (A) STATE 150193 (B) ALLEN-GREENBERG 6/15 TELECON
(C) MOSCOW 14236

1. RE REF. C, SCICOUN WILL BE INTERESTED LEARN THAT SOVDEL
ARRIVED JUNE 18 VIA PAN AM 67 WITH, AS INDICATED REF. B,
FIRM ASSURANCE TO HOSTS WHO MET PLANE THAT TICKET SITUATION
DESCRIBED REF. A WAS "TAKEN CARE OF." EARLY A.M. JUNE 19
SOVDEL ENCOUNTERED SERIOUS, LAST-MINUTE PROBLEMS (FINALLY
WORKED OUT WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY BY NTSB HOSTS) IN
BOARDING UAL FLIGHT TO SEATTLE AS THEY HAD PROCEEDED TO USE
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"SPACE AVAILABLE" TICKETS. FYI. UAL PERSONNEL FINALLY
CONSENTED TO LET SOVDEL BOARD FLIGHT BY, WE SUSPECT, BENDING
OF RULES IN ORDER TO AVOID INCIDENT AND RESPOND TO NTSB
PRESSURE. THIS WAS DONE AT EXPENSE OF REVENUE-TICKETED
STANDBYS. END FYI. FURTHER, SOVDEL INSISTED AT LAST
MINUTE THAT VALERY I. ZAKAROV, AEROFLOT DULLES STATION
MANAGER, ACCOMPANY DELEGATION TO SEATTLE, CAUSING

CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO CLEAR HIM THROUGH FAA SECURITY FOR
PLANNED SITE VISITS AND SECURE ADDITIONAL HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

HAD DOT EXECSEC BEEN INFORMED OF ABOVE FIASCO BEFORE SOVDEL
DEPARTURE FOR SEATTLE, HE WOULD HAVE ADVISED NTSB TO CANCEL
SEATTLE PORTION OF PROGRAM. AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT
TO GET SOVIET EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, DOT EXECSEC ADVISED NTSB
HOSTS, WITH DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, THAT THEY SHOULD PLAN
TO DEPART SEATTLE WITHOUT SOVDEL IF THEY CONTINUE TO
ATTEMPT TO USE SPACE AVAILABLE TICKETS AND THERE IS NO
AVAILABLE SPACE. PROGRAM GOALS OF VISIT HAVE BEEN
SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED BY ABOVE AND DOT/FAA/NTSB FEEL FUTURE
VISITS CANNOT BE PROGRAMMED AS LONG AS THERE IS POSSIBILITY
THAT SOVIETS MAY NOT FIND SPACE AVAILABLE AND ARE NOT
OTHERWISE PREPARED TO PAY FOR TRAVEL. IN FUTURE, DOT/FAA
WILL NOT PLAN TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON
UNLESS SOVIET DELEGATIONS COME PROPERLY TICKETED.

2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, REQUEST SCICOUN DELIVER FOLLOWING
LETTER TO SCST, COPY TO SMUROV, MINCIVAIR.

JUNE 21, 1978 05.00

E. A. AYKAZAN
COUNSELOR, STATE COMMITTEE FOR
--SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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MOSCOW, USSR

MY DEAR FRIEND:

I AM PLEASED THAT NOW THAT THE AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN
THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS BEING
RENEWED WE CAN FOCUS ALL OUR ATTENTION ON THE EFFECTIVE
CONDUCTING OF OUR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. I REGRET TO
REPORT THAT WE HAVE NOT MADE AN AUSPICIOUS START. DESPITE
YOUR AND MR. SMUROV'S ASSURANCES TO THE U.S. EMBASSY
SCIENCE COUNSELOR ON JUNE 15 THAT SOVIET DELEGATIONS,
ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION,
WOULD BE REVENUE TICKETED FOR INTERNAL U.S. AIR TRAVEL IN
ORDER TO AVOID PROBLEMS IN BOARDING FLIGHTS WHICH CANNOT
HONOR COURTESY TICKETS BECAUSE THEY ARE FULLY BOOKED, AND
DESPITE ADDITIONAL ASSURANCES OF THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET
DELEGATION ON CIVIL AVIATION ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION,
UPON HIS ARRIVAL, THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN TAKEN CARE OF
IN MOSCOW, THE SOVIET DELEGATION CAME ONLY WITH SPACE
AVAILABLE TYPE TICKETS AND THEREBY ENCOUNTERED PROBLEMS IN
BOARDING THE UNITED AIR LINES FLIGHT TO SEATTLE EARLY ON
JUNE 19. IN VIEW OF THE STRIKE OF N.W. AIRLINES, FLIGHTS

TO POINTS IN THE NORTH WESTERN PART OF THE U.S. ARE NOW
GENERALLY FULLY BOOKED. AS THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE
RETURN FLIGHT ON WHICH THE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO

DEPART SEATTLE WILL HAVE SPACE AVAILABLE AND BECAUSE WE
APPEAR TO BE UNABLE TO GAIN YOUR SIDE'S ATTENTION TO
CORRECT THIS SITUATION (MY ATTEMPTS TO GET YOUR EMBASSY
HERE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN IGNORED), I HAVE
INSTRUCTED THE ESCORT PERSONNEL FROM NTSB TO RETURN TO
WASHINGTON AS SCHEDULED WITH OR WITHOUT THE SOVIET
DELEGATION. YOUR DELEGATION HAS WITH IT THE AEROFLOT
MANAGER AT DULLES WHO WILL KNOW HOW TO GET CONSULAR OR
OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM YOUR EMBASSY. OUR NATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD HOSTS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY
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INCONVENIENCED BY THIS PROBLEM AND, OF COURSE, THEIR
WELL PLANNED PROGRAM JEOPARDIZED. I HOPE FOR THE SAKE OF
THIS VISIT THAT THE UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT IS NOT FULLY
BOOKED. WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON THIS
BASIS.

SINCERELY,

BERNARD A. RAMUNDO
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
U.S. SECTION
US-USSR JOINT COMMISSION ON
TRANSPORTATION VANCE

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NNN

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